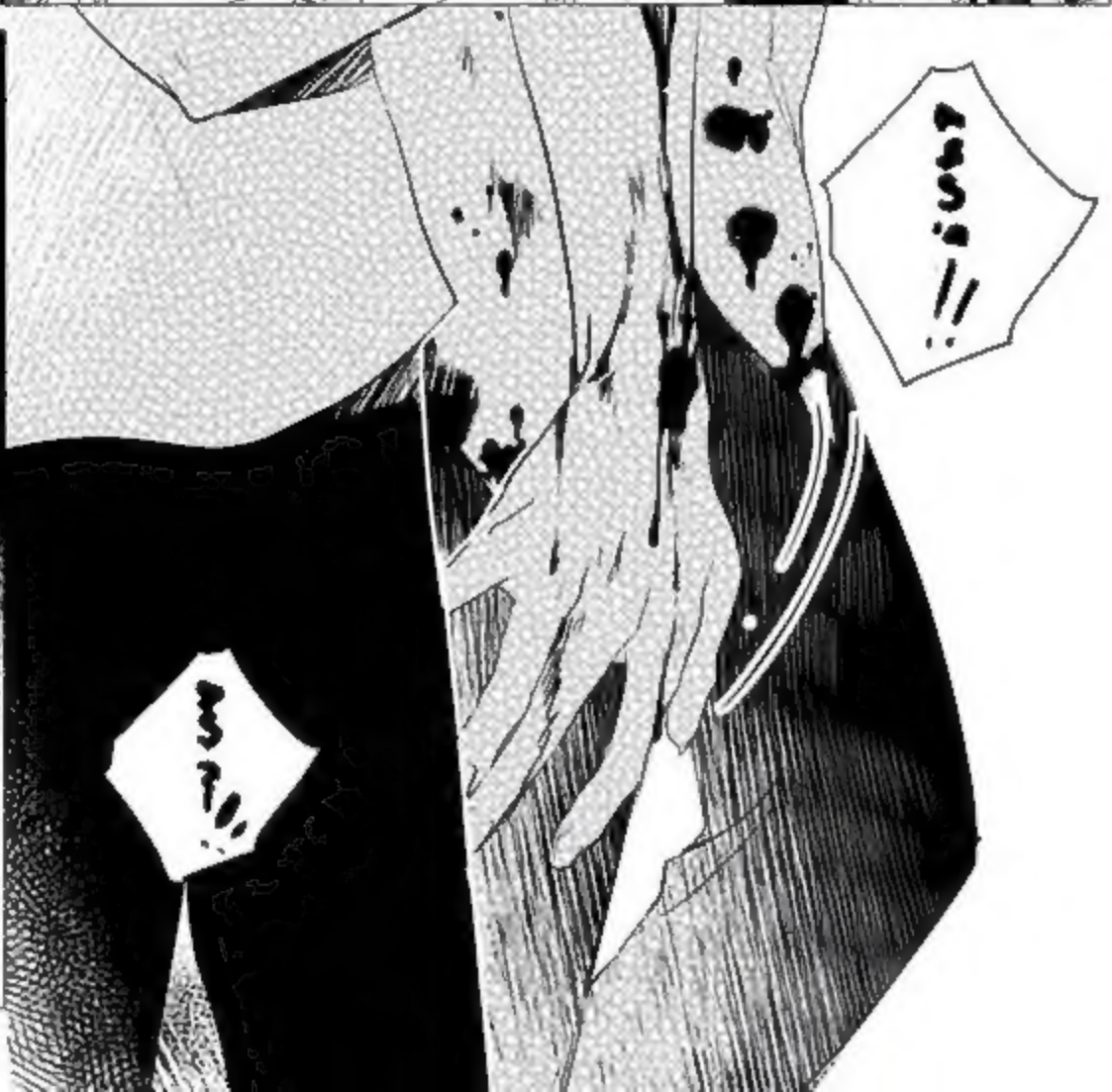
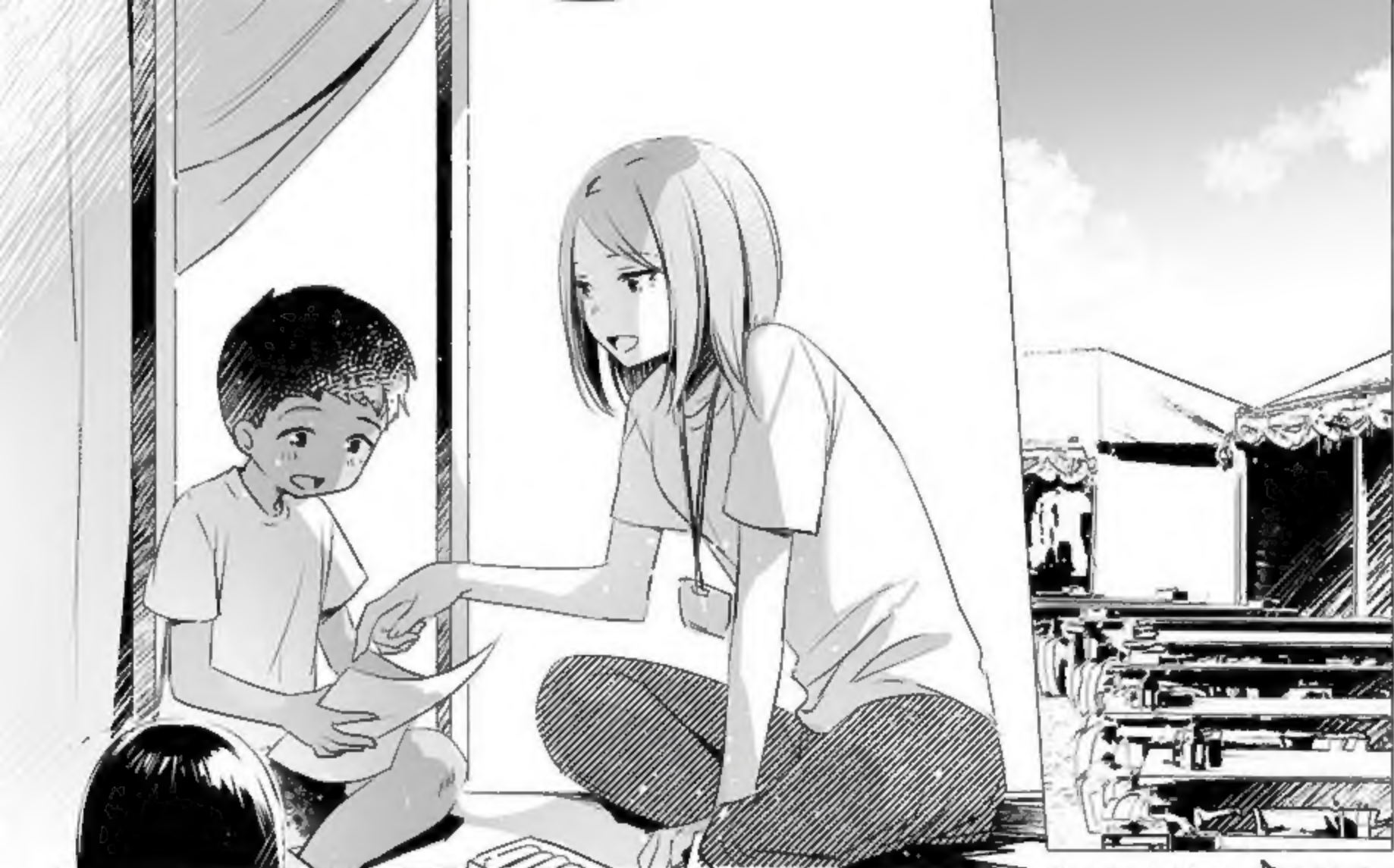




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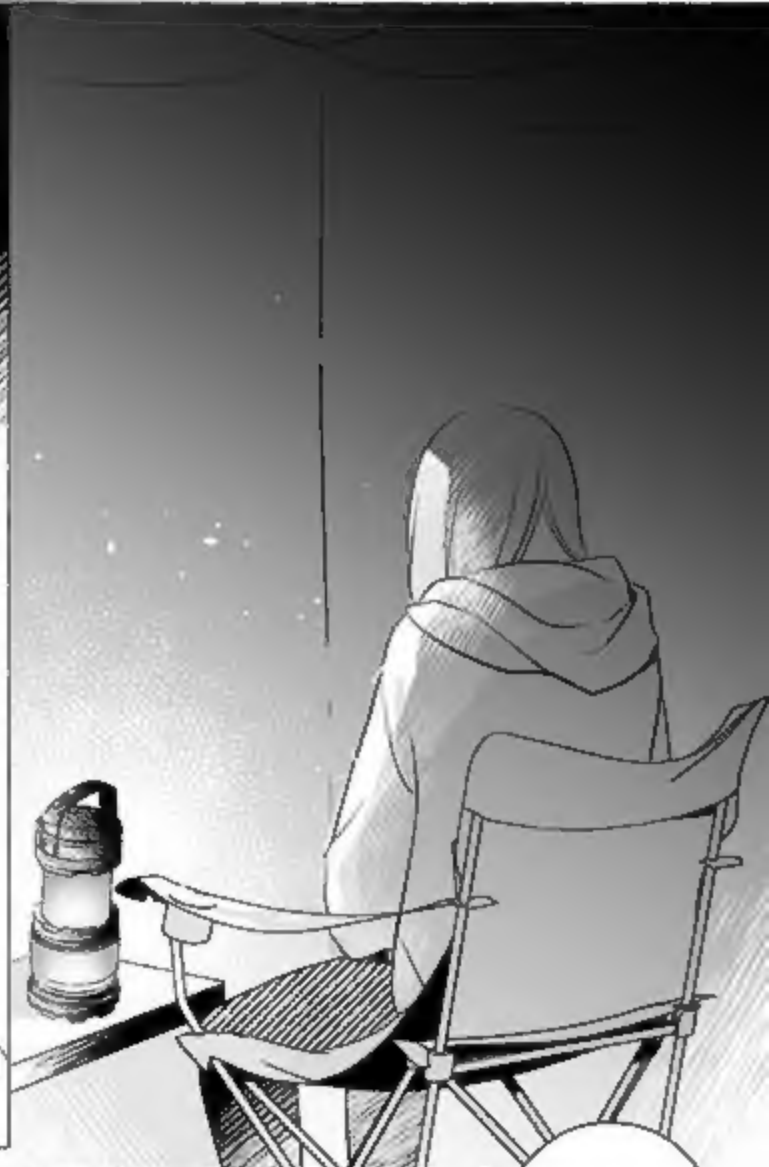
Wow
...
She dealt
with that
situation
in an
instant.




At that moment,
I was overwhelmed—

No...


I was *mesmerized* by her presence.





That's what
everyone
here
calls me.

"Doctor."



I think
I was just
drunk off
my own
arrogance.

I've been
very naïve.



I see.

It's
rather
rare for
volunteers
to come to
this region,
so that's
only natural.

This is
my first time
volunteering
overseas, and...
it's been
far tougher
than
I expected.





...I'm
not here
to help
others.



Yet
I've been here
just a few days
and already
want to
go home.



You're
really
something,
Doctor.

You've been
here in
a country far
from home
for years,
just to help
others.



...What?

The reason
I'm here is
far less
honorable.



Perhaps
it's because
I haven't
spoken in
my first
language
in some time,
but I feel
like talking
further.

Will you
keep me
company?



The
reason...



The Wanderers

I guess
this is
the first time
I've properly
introduced
her.

かゝる tremble



This
is my
fiancé!





How
could
you...?



...Why?

How can
you still
stand there
with
that smile
on your face?!





To lose
their parents
at such
a young age...
The girl is
still a child.

The
poor
thing.



All my older
brother
ever did
was give
things up
for me.



SQUEEZE





With the money left by your father, and if you sell the house and use your inheritance.

Is that really necessary?



I'll be graduating soon.

Once I have, I won't go to college. I'll find a job so that we can get by.



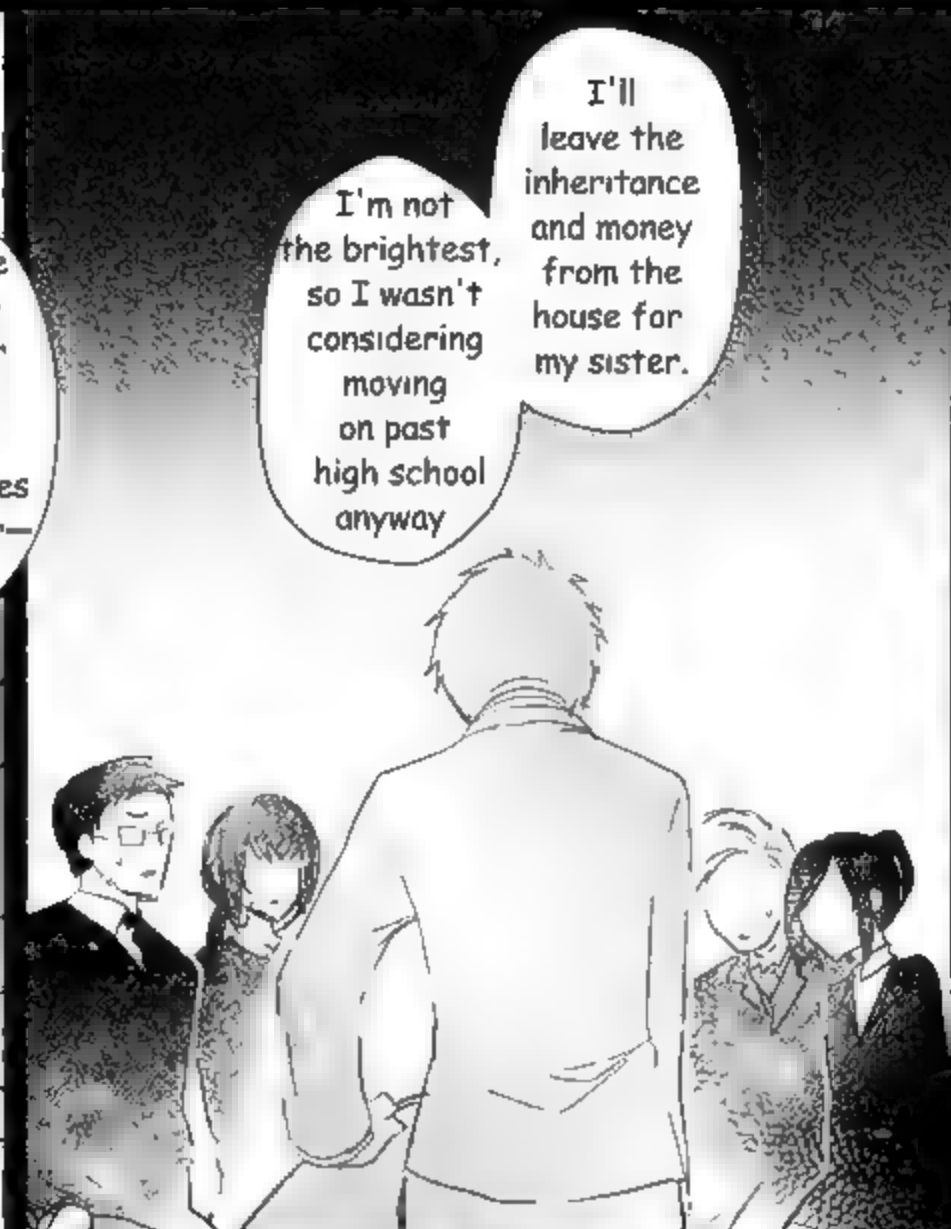
おお bite!

You realize how young your sister is, right? One of your relatives can take her—



My sister—

BAM!



I'm not the brightest, so I wasn't considering moving on past high school anyway

I'll leave the inheritance and money from the house for my sister.

I'm
begging
you!

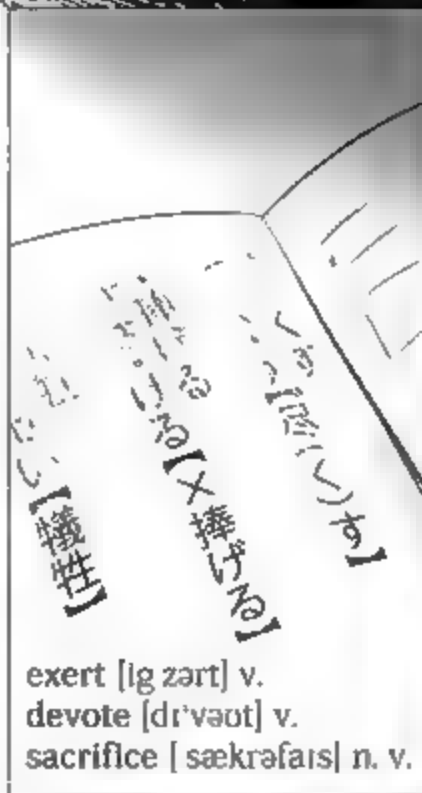
...My
sister is
all the
family
I have
left!





「...」

mumble...



exert [ɪg zərt] v.
devote [dr'vəʊt] v.
sacrifice [sæk'rɪfaɪs] n. v.



Ever since
our parents
had died in
an accident,
my brother's
entire life
had been
"for his
little sister."

And then, he finally found his own happiness.

新婦控室


BRIDE S ROOM



creak...








I'm his
only family,
so I have
to remain
his darling
little sister.


That's why I—



Those were
things
I couldn't
possibly
tell him.



That we
were lovers,
that we
slapt
together
countless
times...



I don't
care
when you
started
dating
my
brother.

Or
how you
ended up
marrying
him.

At
this point,
I don't
want to ask.



crench



I only have one request.

No matter what happens, I want you and my brother to build a happy family together.

That's all.



Pff.



Oh really?

Hahaha
haha.

Ahahaha!



You and
I are going
to be
family now



So very,
very happy.



...




I'm going
to become
family
with
the person
I love.


That's why
I'm already
happy.



Wait.



The person
you love...



You mean
my brother,
right?




There was
a defining...
something.

Something
off.
Warped.
Twisted.



Don't worry.
I can love
the people
you love.



After all,
we're family,
aren't we?

And I don't think she was the only one who had that something...
unhinge... inside them.

By the time I realized, it was already far too late.



St—



Nnf.

Stop it!

Haa

haa

Haa..



BAM!

Are you
insane?!
Do you
understand
what
you're
doing?!



Gasp!




shnnhff

SNAP!!



lick!

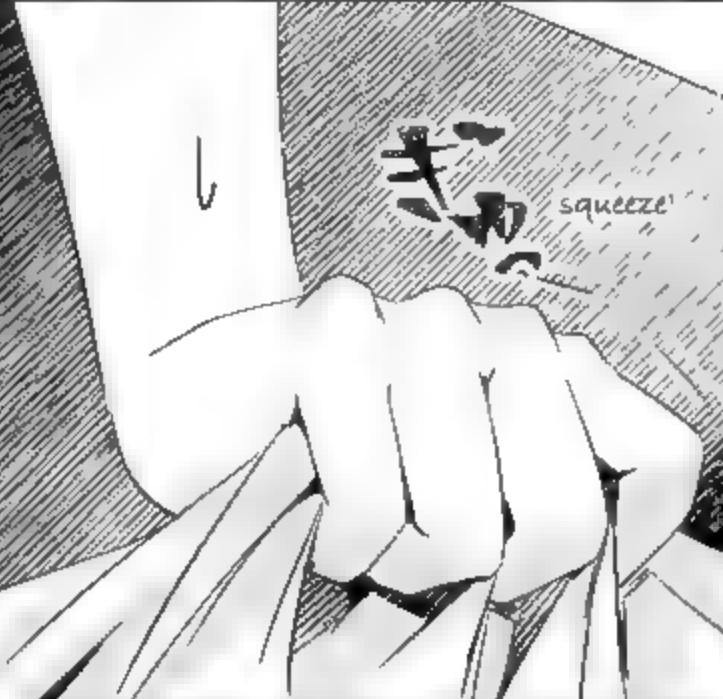


I always
have.
I still do.
And
I always
will.

Of course.



Family



squeeze


I love
him too,
just as
you
wished.

That's
something
irreplaceable
for you,
right?


Then
it's also
precious
to me.



He's like
you in
a lot of ways.
Gestures,
habits..



I don't
want to
hear this..



Some of
his expressions
in bed are
just like yours.
So lovely.



The moment
I found
out that she
thought of
me when
making love
to my brother...

The relief I felt made me
want to throw up.



Big news!

We're
having
a baby!



I want it
to be
a girl.

Not sure
if it's
a boy or
a girl yet,
though.

I'm
really
curious!



I'm sure
that she..

will look
just like
you





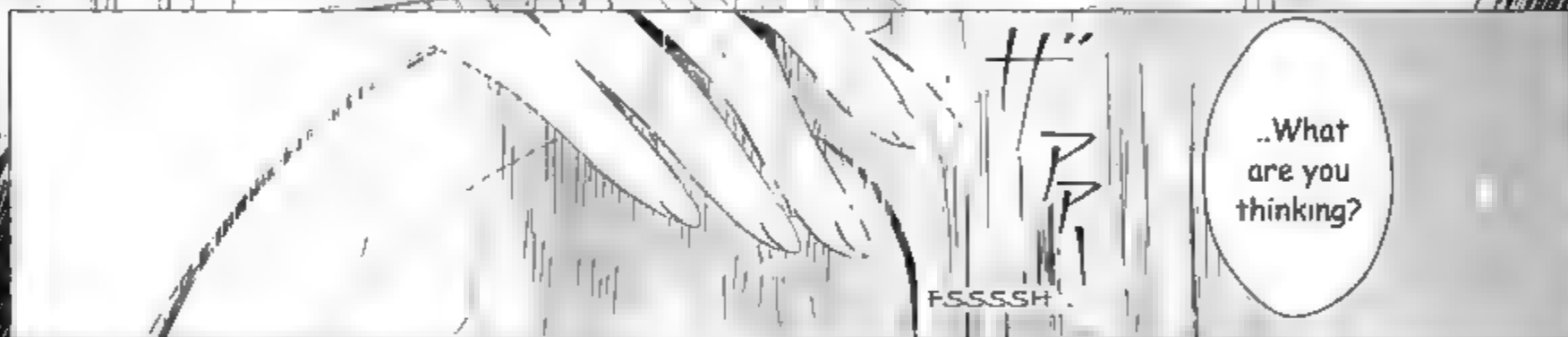
We're
talking
about
the child
you're
having with
my brother.

So why are
you looking
at me?

tremble...



Who is it that you want the child to look like?









She may be
your sister-
in-law,
but I know
you were
friends
beforehand.

And
while
friends
might fight
sometimes.

We're
a family now.
We can work
things out
by talking with
each other

Brother



Always
giving, giving,
giving...
Even when you
didn't want to.

You've
only ever
taken care
of me,
right?

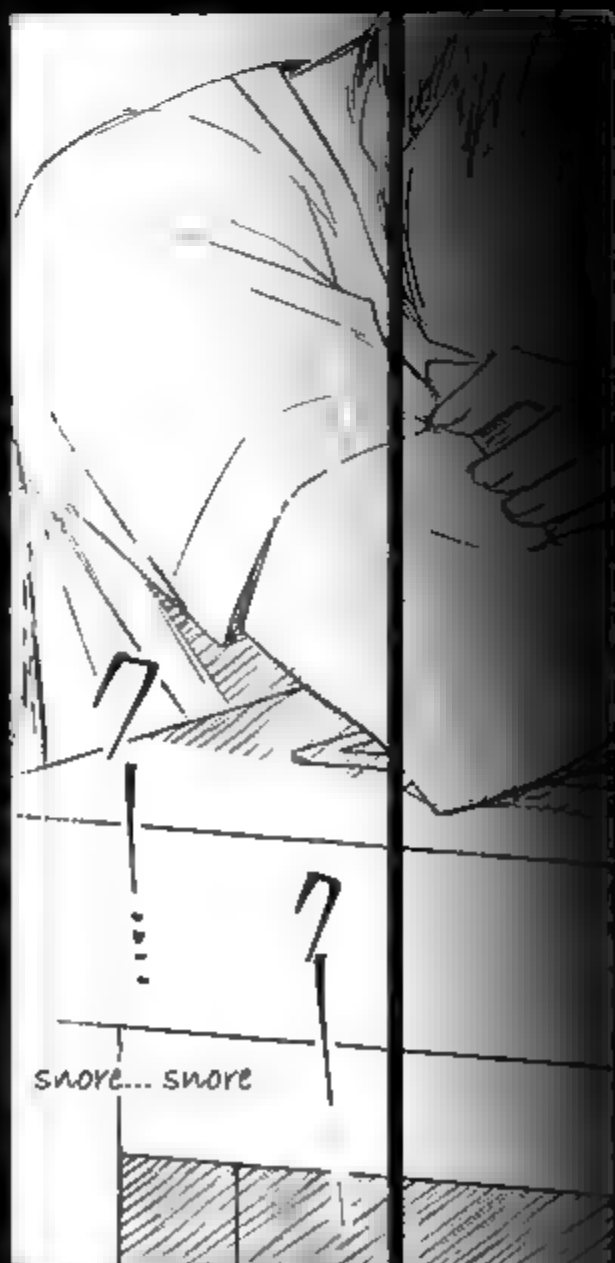
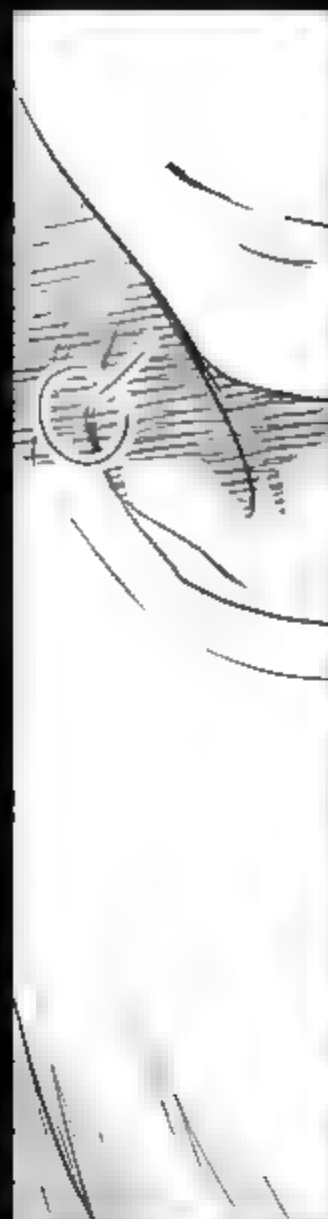
That must
have been
really hard
at times.





That's
not true.

It was
only natural.



snore... snore



We're
family,
after all.

Then just
let me
have her...
She was mine
to begin with.

フ
Σ
whisper

タ
ツ
TAP

snore...

squeeze

I'm
sorry
for
everything

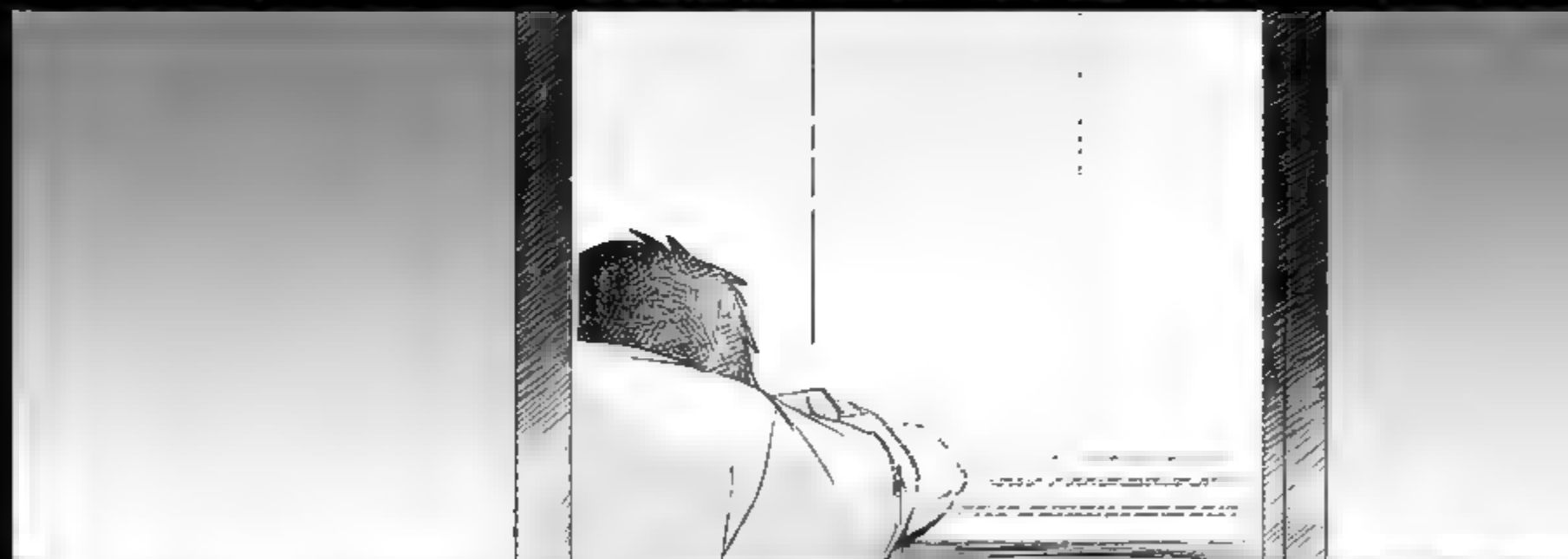
I'm sorry
for being
a selfish
little sister
right until
the end.

plip! drip!

I'm
sorry
for
lying.

At
this rate,
I..

...These
thoughts
keep filling
my mind.





Doing this work,
I can forget about
all of it.





I'll always
be waiting
for you.



But
I'm forced
to remember,
every night
in
my dreams.



We are
family,
after all.





We're
a family.



Exactly.



Should
I have given
in to
my desires?
Betrayed and
destroyed
everything?

Should
I have been
protecting
some sort
of ideal?
No matter
how much
of a sham
it was?



Being
thrown
into this
dilemma,
I just
chose to
run away.

I don't
know
where
I'm going.
I'm
just
wandering.

You think
too highly
of me.

I'm just
a coward
who couldn't
decide
what to do
with
herself.





FWOO.



...Haha.



Doctor?
She's not
here
anymore.

Um,
is the Doctor
around?
I was hoping
to say
goodbye...

Huh?



But that
camp is far
more
dangerous
than here...

Yesterday
was her
last day
at this camp.
She left for
another earlier
this morning

I hear that
even
the medics
are being
attacked
now.



How long
do I have
until my
connecting
flight?
Guess
I might
as well
check
my email
while I have
Wi-Fi



If I
search for
the Doctor's
name, along
with that NPO,
I wonder
what'll
come up .



** arrested on suspicion of murder

殺害容疑

妊娠中と偽り

Feigned pregnancy

犯行後、自殺を図り緊急搬送

Suspect attempted suicide after crime, rushed to hospital

同居だった妹の
現在NPO団体に所属
活動中のため事件とは無関係とみなさ

The victim's younger sister, ***** (** years old),
who lived with them, is currently part of a foreign NPO
as a volunteer doctor. For this reason,
she is considered unrelated to the case.





All that is left are facts.

The one
who
wanders.

The one
who
doesn't
waver.

The one
who
ran away.

The one
who was
left
behind.

The one
who
drove
them
insane.

The
insane
one.

In the end,
I couldn't figure out
who was who.

And I thought to myself,
"Maybe it's better that way."





One shouldn't go near a swamp
which has no bottom.

The Wanderers

Afterword

Hello, to new and old readers alike. My name is irua, and I would like to thank you for your purchase of this book. I imagine that a significant number of readers will have reached the end of this book and be wondering, "What did she want to say?" And that's more than fine. After all, if you don't understand, it's better that way.

The main character here is a complete stranger, only knowing what the "Doctor" told her, and what she read in those articles. Not only that, but she has no way of knowing if the Doctor told the whole truth about her past. Furthermore, as readers, we don't know who the suspect or victim is in the articles. The things that the characters know and don't know do not line up. There is no one character who perfectly fits the mold of a given role. And yet, they each try to fit into the role of a "family." Each person's concept of family is different, as well. They are all wanderers—strangers—who seek the answers to things that they themselves remain uncertain of.

I wrote this story with the thought, "This kind of story would be even better if it was about two women... I want to see that, so I guess I'll draw it!" That's usually how it goes—"No one's made this, guess it's gotta be me!" The era may have changed from Heisei to Reiwa, but I remain unchanged. The emotions exchanged between two women are some of the strongest, and I love that. Yuri has yet to bore me. As if it ever could!

A slight change of topic, but if same-sex marriage were to be legalized, the setting of this story would become a thing of the past. I'd really like for that to happen soon. ...Then again, even if it were legalized, I bet she (the ex-girlfriend cum sister-in-law) would do something similar.

It feels as though I've only been writing really serious stories since the change in the era, so I'd like to write a cheerful, straightforward story next.

Maybe a story about how a songstress of long ago ends up dating a modern idol girl. An age difference of at least 24 years would be good. That's one of my preferences, and you'll never take it away from me! Or maybe some sort of love comedy between a new girl joining a foreign trade company and a higher up person in that same company. These kinds of delusions come to mind all the time, but putting them on paper isn't quite as easy. That said, I'll do my best to draw something before the end of this year.

I'm still going at my own pace (as usual), and will continue to do so. See you next time!

2019/08/11

Special thanks to Siokyabetsu and MMM37 for their proofreading and everything else. Thank you! Wuv you ♥